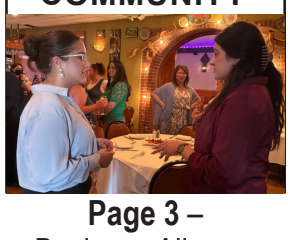
COMMUNITY



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EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

Michigan's #1, Oldest, Largest and Only Bilingual Hispanic News • Free! ¡Gratis! • Vol. 36, #28 • **May 8, 2025**

SPORTS

Page 10 –
Metro Detroit Golden Gloves !!!

El desfile del Cinco de Mayo del suroeste de Detroit se impone ante la lluvia y los rumores, para el deleite de miles de personas

La Madre Naturaleza y el temor general a las acciones de ICE y otras agencias del orden público no pudieron con el espíritu patriótico y el orgullo cultural de los residentes y visitantes de ascendencia mexicana y latinoamericana que participaron y disfrutaron del Desfile y la Fiesta de este año el fin de semana pasado.

El Suroeste de Detroit se hizo presente y defendió la diversidad de la cultura estadounidenses y de los inmigrantes, que hacen de nuestra comunidad un rico hogar cultural para orgullosos residentes, negocios locales y proveedores de servicios.

El Comité Patriótico Mexicano estima que aproximadamente 8,000 personas se alinearon a lo largo de la ruta del desfile de 3.8 kilómetros por la autopista W Vernor, desde el Parque Patton hasta el Parque Clark. Alma Cruz, presidenta del Comité, informó que el 60.º Desfile Anual atrajo a 73 participantes registrados (de negocios locales, escuelas, grupos de danza folclórica, ONG y líderes cívicos) y 123 vehículos registrados. Los asistentes al desfile disfrutaron de la alegre y vibrante música de la Banda de la Escuela Secundaria Cass Tech.

La Fiesta se llevó a cabo el sábado y el domingo en una nueva ubicación cerca

In traditional colorful costumes and masks, 2025 Cinco de Mayo parade participants walk down W. Vernor Highway in Southwest Detroit. Photo by Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval.

Continúa en la pág. 8

Southwest Detroit's Cinco de Mayo Parade Prevails Over "Rain and Rumors" to the Enjoyment of Thousands

Mother Nature and general fears of actions by ICE and other law enforcement agencies proved no match for the patriotic spirit and cultural pride of residents and visitors of Mexican and other Latin American heritage who participated in and enjoyed this year's parade and fiesta this past weekend.

Southwest Detroit showed up and stood up for the diverse American and immigrant cultures that make our community the rich cultural home for proud residents, local businesses and service providers.

The Mexican Patriotic Committee estimates that approximately 8,000 people lined up along the 2.4 mile parade route on W Vernor Hwy, from Patton Park to Clark Park. Alma Cruz, president of the *Comite*, reported that the 60th Annual Parade attracted 73 registered participants (from local businesses, schools, folkloric dance groups, non-profits and civic leaders) and 123 registered vehicles. Parade-goers were treated to the vibrant and pulsating sounds of the Cass Tech High School Marching Band.

The Fiesta took place on Saturday and Sunday at a new location near the starting point for the parade at Patton Park where 22 food trucks and commercial vendors gathered along with 10 resource tables to market their ethnic foods and products and share important information with attendees.

Please turn to pages 8 and 9 for more photos of the parade and fiesta.

Harvard-Bound Detroit Student Among Class of 2025

Detroit Cristo Rey Celebrates Continued 100% College Acceptance

Article and photo by Michael D. Gutierrez

The Detroit Athletic Club welcomed over seventy first-generation college students from Detroit Cristo Rey High School on Thursday, May 1st, as they gathered in the club's main dining room alongside parents and siblings to announce their college selections on National College Decision Day.

The event, led by Pauline Weber, Director of College Counseling and Alumni Advising and herself a graduate of Cristo Rey's first class in 2008, showcased the school's remarkable achievement of maintaining a 100% college acceptance rate since its founding.

Among the graduating seniors, EL CENTRAL contributing writer Kaylee Razo stood out as this year's recipient of the highly competitive Gates Scholarship, one of the nation's most prestigious awards for outstanding minority students from low-income households. The scholarship, which covers the full cost of attendance including tuition, fees, room and board, books, and other expenses not covered by other financial aid, will support Razo as she heads to Harvard University after visiting the campus earlier last week. Only 300 students nationwide receive this award annually, representing less than 1 percent of applicants.

The ceremony featured newly appointed Lincoln president Joaquin Nuño-Whelan, who delivered a moving bilingual address reflecting on his family's immigrant roots. He encouraged the seniors to "go forward with the confidence that not only do you belong at the schools you've been admitted to, but that you're already ahead of the students you'll be working with." Nuño-Whelan, whose grandparents first arrived at Michigan Central Train Station in 1954, had been announced as Lincoln's new leader on April 4th after previously serving as vehicle program director for full-size utilities including the Navigator and Ford Expedition.

This emphasis on belonging and professional readiness echoes Cristo Rey's own educational philosophy. What makes the private Catholic high school's model unique is its innovative corporate work-study program, which allows students to offset almost all tuition costs. The school partners with major organizations including General Motors, the Detroit Athletic Club, Corewell Health, Henry Ford Health, and The Detroit Zoo, among others, to provide students with valuable professional experience while offsetting tuition costs.

Civil engineering hopeful Eduardo Flores, accompanied by his brother Antonio, shared his excitement about choosing between University of Michigan Ann Arbor and University of Michigan Dearborn. "My favorite thing about Cristo Rey is the opportunities for internships," said Flores, who currently works as an accounting intern at Expeditors.

Seventeen-year-old Yohan Irineo, supported by his sister Guadalupe, proudly announced his decision to attend University of Michigan Ann Arbor, while Joanna Gutierrez, with her mother Adriana by her side, revealed her plans to study psychology at Grand Valley State University. Fellow graduates announced destinations ranging from Wayne State and Michigan State to colleges across the country, with some venturing as far as Georgia to pursue their dreams.

Pictured left to right; Kaylee Razo, Pauline Weber (Director of College Counseling and Alumni Advising at Cristo Rey), Tania Barba

As Weber concluded the ceremony, she added one final reminder:

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“¡Brilla!” Excels as it Illuminates and Entertains

By Jorge Casarez. Photos by J. Lindsey Photography

¡BRILLA! El Despertar del Alebrije en Mi, an original bilingual play created La Carpa Teen Ensemble performed at the Senate Theater from April 24th – April 27th.

Los Alebrijes is the name of the brightly colored and fantastically creative folk art sculptures of imaginary animals that are made out of paper mâché.

La Carpa Teen Ensemble takes the origin of this art and presents us with a playful look at the politics of color and authoritarian control.

The play starts with Pedro Linares the actual originator of the art form. At the age of 30 in 1936 he became severely ill and had a dream in which he met these creatures, colorful and chimerical, that is to say having mixed features of different animals: A donkey with wings or a rooster with horns. These polychrome colored animals told him their name, “Alebrijes”. When he recovered he began to recreate them in paper mâché, cartonería, and it developed as a new art form that has become popular not only in Mexico but as ambassador around the world as a cultural representative of Mexican culture.

The play transports us to that night when Pedro Linares is sick in bed and then we go with him as he journeys to the world of the Alebrijes known as Prismatica. The colorful creatures are polarized in their beliefs and each side is in a cultural battle of whose beliefs are true. They seek the wisdom that belongs only to humans but Pedro successfully helps them see that acceptance of others leads to the solutions that they seek. That the answers are found within each of them, with the message that it is found within each of us.

The backdrops showed the iconic corner store of the neighborhoods of Mexico, with Las Bellas Artes the national performing arts center of Mexico City in the background as a nod to theater. It also showed the old radio station from where we hear an old radio show.

The Teen Ensemble performed with professional excellence delivering their lines and conveying the joy that is found in youth and alebrijes. Yet, the youthful energy and playfulness of the plot allowed for a non-threatening look at issues of diversity and faith of problem solving to resolve issues that made this politically relevant.

La Carpa Teen Ensemble is a bilingual program of A Host of People, created to center the voices and stories of Latiné youth in Detroit. A Host of People is a multi-racial Detroit-based ensemble theater company creating original work for social change that celebrates imagination, complexity, and the synthesis of seemingly disparate elements—at once epic and intimate, political and personal, poetic and approachable.

The Director of the play is Karilú Alarcon Forshee who has directed other productions of La Carpa and had performed in a one woman performance She was raised in Juárez, México. She began her artistic education at a young age at La Academia Municipal de Arte and has been performing ever since. Alarcon Forshee is an interdisciplinary performing artist with a degree in theater arts and English-Spanish translation from the University of Texas and a 2020 Kresge Artist Fellow.

Director Karilu Alarcon Forshee gives the curtain speech at the beginning of the performance in front of the backdrop painted by Elton Monroy Duran

FAMILIAS DESTROZADAS
MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS BLAMED FOR TAKING JOBS
SE CULPA A LOS INMIGRANTES MEXICANOS DE TOMAR LOS EMPLEOS
MEXICANOS DETENIDOS Y PUESTOS EN TRENES
MEXICANS ROUNDED UP AND PUT ON TRAINS
LATINO AMERICA & ESTADOS UNIDOS
DIVISION & TERROR

Actors hold up newspaper headlines about Herbert Hoover’s Repatriation of Mexicans in the 1930s

One actor portrays pouring tajin (chili powder) over another

At the end of the performance, the actors proudly display their certificates for completing the third season of La Carpa Theater

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Businesswomen and Entrepreneurs Share More than Contacts in Business Alianzas Networking Event

Article and photos by Kaylee Razo

On April 24th, more than a dozen female entrepreneurs and businesswomen gathered at El Barzón Restaurant in Detroit with one shared goal: to learn, connect, and grow through meaningful networking. The event was filled with women from diverse industries, ranging from translation services to real estate and food service, who came together to exchange wisdom and support each other's business journeys. Mayra Tapia Villa, one of the attendees, emphasized how this diversity of backgrounds contributed to the event's strength. "You get so many connections," she said, "and you will be able to find what you need here."

The event was organized by Bridget Espinosa, founder of Business Alianzas and CEO of Puente Cultural Integration. Since 2021, she and her team at Business Alianzas have worked to provide bilingual training, entrepreneurial workshops, individual coaching, and technical support for small businesses.

What makes Business Alianzas stand out is their emphasis on language accessibility. Espinosa specializes in working with both English and Spanish speaking clients, using her bilingual skills to ensure that her clients aren't held back by language barriers. According to its website, Business Alianzas is now distinguished as the "leading bilingual business consulting firm in the state of Michigan," with an impact that has reached over 150 men and women and helped formalize almost 100 businesses.

Espinosa explained that their mission is rooted in "ensuring that entrepreneurs have equitable access to resources." She's seen firsthand how "women, especially those with home-based businesses and immigrant professionals, often feel left out of traditional networking spaces."

Peer-to-peer learning and shared experience were central to the event's success. Jennifer Aparicio, a Detroit-based realtor, said that hearing others' stories was the most rewarding part of the event. "(Sometimes) you learn more from your peers than from a coach or a professional advisor," she said, reinforcing the value of these connections.

Mika Carter, owner of Initia LLC, a Japanese-to-English translation service, explained the importance of building a space for women in industries as they're still underrepresented. "We as females need to help each other to thrive in these environments," she said. "It's still male-dominated, so women need to be more present and support one another."

The event also addressed the barriers that often keep women from starting or formalizing their businesses. Espinosa pointed to common challenges like fear, time constraints, or lack of formal knowledge. "The biggest challenge is understanding how to formalize a business," she explained, highlighting the importance of providing support and mentorship as women navigate those early stages. Aparicio shared this sentiment, sharing how "fear of rejection, or thinking we don't have enough time because we're women or because we're mothers" can delay many from pursuing their dreams.

A central theme of the event was the exchange of hard-earned wisdom. One attendee, Vianey Lopez, said "The biggest challenge was believing in myself. I just never thought that things were accessible to me." As a result of her personal experience, she urged younger women not to wait: "Start (your business) earlier. Start now. Don't have that fear." She said Espinosa emphasized the importance of financial literacy and encouraged many attendees to consider hiring a bookkeeper. She said, "If you don't know your numbers, you have a really expensive hobby."

However, for many women, the exchange of wisdom started before the networking event and continued after it ended. One attendee, Mayra Torres, owner of ArteSano Juice Bar, shared her experience in a testimonial featured on the Business Alianzas website. "Bridget helped me grow in a way that she's pushing me to learn how to run a business," Torres said. "She's always there to push me and make sure I'm on top of my game. She's showing me how to run a business the right way and to make sure I'm on track with doing what needs to be done to make sure my company is doing everything the correct way."

Building inclusive access, strong communities, and opportunities for peer mentorship is key to the success of female entrepreneurs. As Espinosa put it, "When women show up for themselves, they show up stronger for their families, their communities, and their futures." Highlighting the importance of supporting women as they take the first step in pursuing their dreams.

Juana Saavedra, business development manager at Alliance Catholic Credit Union, at left, met with former ACCU employee Brenda Villarruel to share their journeys as businesswomen and discuss their future goals

Bridget Espinosa, founder of Business Alianzas and CEO of Puente Cultural Integration. Photo by Puente Cultural Integration

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Kaylee Razo is a high school senior at Detroit Cristo Rey High School and a passionate advocate. She is the co-chair of Strangers No Longer's Youth Council (Youth in Action for Immigration) and a mentor at the Michigan Youth Civil Rights Academy.

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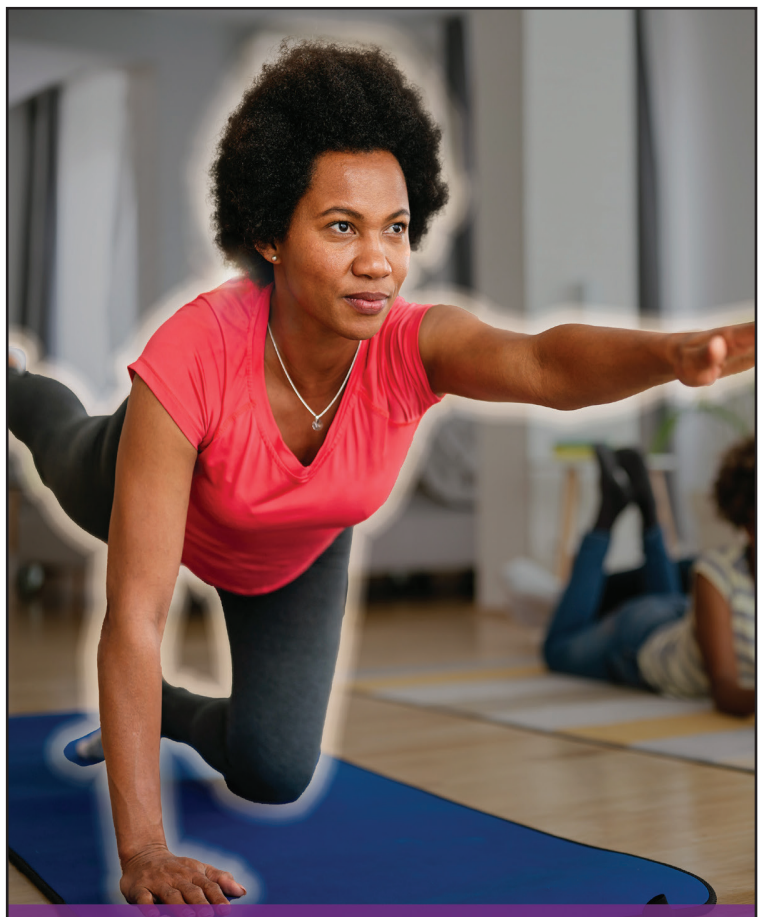

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Detroit Cristo Rey

Con't from pg. 1

"Today is not only senior breakfast, it is also prom. Doors open at 7 and close at 7:45." Her words served as a gentle reminder that these accomplished students – some bound for Harvard, others for military service – were still teenagers at heart.

******

Michael D. Gutierrez is a screenwriter and filmmaker with a decade of experience in the television and film industry, contributing to projects including THE HOLDOVERS and LETHAL WEAPON on Fox. He is an active member of the Writers Guild of America-West and its Latino Writers Committee.

EL CENTRAL Hispanic News is partially funded by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

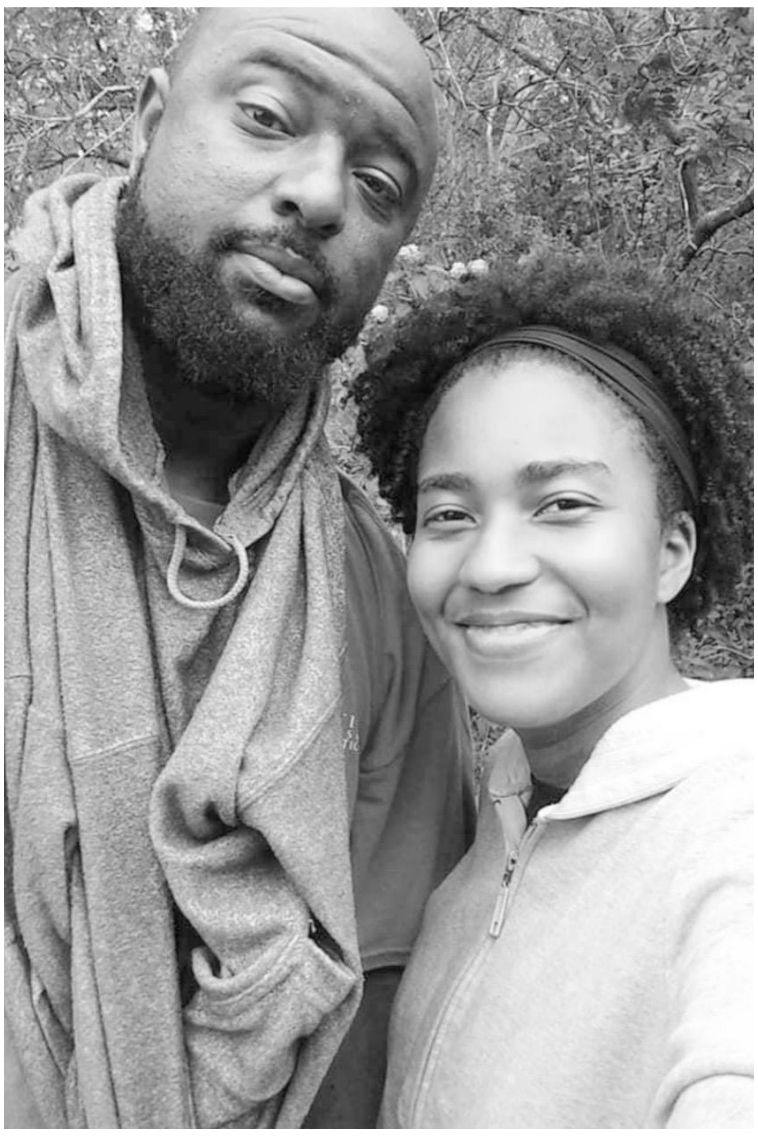
Community Mourns the Loss of Beloved Couple Making a Difference in Detroit

On Friday, April 25th, a speeding vehicle crashed into a bus stop near Evergreen and Fenkell in Detroit, ending the life of a beloved husband and wife, Kwasi and Elizabeth Agbottah, ages 43 and 41, leaving five children orphaned. This week, community members from Brightmoor to Southwest Detroit will gather at the Greater Burnette Baptist Church (16801 Schoolcraft Rd, Detroit, MI 48227) to celebrate the couple's life and their enduring love for others.

Kwasi and Elizabeth had close ties with the Southwest Detroit Latino community. Originally from Austin, Texas, Kwasi worked with his wife as a tutor and mentor of low-income children and youth, many of them children of immigrants. Elizabeth had learned Spanish in Morelia, Mexico having served there as an educator at a local orphanage. She helped her husband master the language as they both mentored youth from Mexican descendant in Texas. When their children were born, they intentionally taught their first two sons, Abraham and Elijah, to speak Spanish at home. Upon moving to Detroit, Kwasi worked a variety of education-related jobs, including as a substitute at Clippert Multicultural Magnet Honors Academy on McKinstry. They later enrolled Abraham (now 15) and Elijah (13) at the Academy of America, high-achieving students at the dual immersion school. Their sons also became faithful attenders of the First Latin American Baptist Church on Scotten.

Kwasi and Elizabeth loved their children dearly, setting aside career opportunities to dedicate their attention to being present in their children's life and parenting their five children in the underprivileged community of Brightmoor where they lived. They considered their neighborhood as the place to shine the light of God's Kingdom and love, living modestly and, at times, taking into their home homeless families and others fleeing from challenging situations. They actively cared for their neighbors and the homeless in the community and participated in a variety of projects to improve the quality of life of their neighborhood. They installed, for example, beautifully designed bird feeders, inscribed with inspirational verse from the Bible to greet those walking by with hope throughout parks in underserved areas of Detroit. Kwasi and Elizabeth's bright smiles, friendly conversations, and interest similarly were a welcome site as they rode their bikes or strolled through the neighborhood streets. They especially had an impact on the youth and children they sought to mentor. As urban missionaries, "they were the real deal," recounts friend, Pastor Semmeal Thomas.

On that tragic evening, they awaited a bus to pick up some groceries for their family. Close to four hours later, officers of the Detroit Police Department knocked on the door of their humble home to inform their children that their parents would not be returning. Their grandmother is seeking custody as they await the result of charges being brought against the driver of the vehicle and transition to a life without dear Kwasi and Elisabeth. A devastated community mourns alongside them. A GoFundMe account has been set up to support the family before this horrible loss. For more information visit https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-us-support-the-agbottah-sons-after-tragedy



La comunidad llora la pérdida de una querida pareja que marcaba la diferencia en Detroit

El viernes 25 de abril, un vehículo a alta velocidad se estrelló contra una parada de autobús cerca de Evergreen y Fenkell en Detroit, puso fin a la vida de un amado esposo y esposa, Kwasi y Elizabeth Agbottah, de 43 y 41 años y dejó a sus cinco hijos huérfanos. Esta semana, miembros de la comunidad desde Brightmoor hasta el suroeste de Detroit se reunirán en la Iglesia Bautista Greater Burnette (16801 Schoolcraft Rd, Detroit, MI 48227) para celebrar la vida de la pareja y su amor perdurable por los demás.

Kwasi y Elizabeth tenían estrechos vínculos con la comunidad latina del suroeste de Detroit. Originario de Austin, Texas, Kwasi trabajó con su esposa como tutor y mentor de niños y jóvenes de bajos ingresos, muchos de ellos hijos de inmigrantes. Elizabeth había aprendido español en Morelia, México, después de haber servido como educadora en un orfanato local. Ella ayudó a su esposo a dominar el idioma mientras ambos eran mentores de jóvenes de ascendencia mexicana en Texas. Cuando nacieron sus hijos, enseñaron intencionalmente a sus dos primeros hijos, Abraham y Elijah, a hablar español en casa. Al mudarse a Detroit, Kwasi trabajó en una variedad de empleos relacionados con la educación, incluso como maestro suplente en la Academia Multicultural de Honores Clippert en la calle McKinstry. Más tarde inscribió a Abraham (ahora de 15 años) y Elijah (de 13) en la Academia de las Américas, estudiantes de alto rendimiento en la escuela de doble inmersión. Sus hijos también se convirtieron en fieles asistentes de la Primera Iglesia Bautista Latinoamericana en la calle Scotten.

Kwasi y Elizabeth amaban mucho a sus hijos, y dejaron de lado oportunidades profesionales para dedicar su atención a estar presentes en la vida de sus hijos y criar a sus cinco hijos en la comunidad de bajos recursos de Brightmoor, donde vivían. Consideraban su vecindario como el lugar para brillar la luz del Reino de Dios y su amor. Vivían modestamente y, a veces, acogían en su casa a familias sin hogar y a otras personas que huían de situaciones difíciles. Cuidaban activamente a sus vecinos y a las personas deambulantes de la comunidad. También participaban en una variedad de proyectos para mejorar la calidad de vida de su vecindario. Instalaron, por ejemplo, comederos para pájaros bellamente diseñados e inscritos con versículos inspiradores de la Biblia para saludar con esperanza a los que caminaban por los parques de las zonas marginadas de Detroit. Las sonrisas brillantes, las conversaciones amistosas y el interés de Kwasi y Elizabeth de igual forma fueron un encuentro bienvenido mientras paseaban en bicicleta o caminaban por las calles de su vecindario. Tuvieron un impacto especial en los jóvenes y niños a los que buscaban orientar. Como misioneros urbanos, "eran genuinos, no falsos", relata su amigo, el pastor Semmeal Thomas.

En esa trágica noche, esperaban un autobús para recoger algunos comestibles para su familia. Cerca de cuatro horas después, oficiales del Departamento de Policía de Detroit tocaron a la puerta de su humilde casa para informar a sus hijos que sus padres no regresarían. La abuela ha solicitado la custodia de los niños mientras esperan el resultado de los cargos presentados contra la conductora del vehículo y la transición a una vida sin los queridos Kwasi y Elisabeth. Una comunidad devastada se une en luto con ellos. Se ha creado una cuenta de GoFundMe para apoyar a la familia ante esta horrible pérdida. Para más información, visite https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-us-support-the-agbottah-sons-after-tragedy

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La Jali Arrives: Bringing Mexicantown Heritage to Taylor

Photos and article by Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval

Outside, the bold yellow letters simply read: La Jali. Inside, sunlight spills through wide windows, casting a golden glow across tables where families lean over trays of tacos and handmade sopes. Laughter and conversation fill the room, echoing beneath rows of colorful papel picado strung across the ceiling. This vibrant scene unfolds not at the long-standing La Jalisciense in Southwest Detroit, but at its first expansion: a new location in Taylor.

For more than a decade, the original La Jalisciense has been a beloved staple and neighborhood fixture on Vernor Highway, where shoppers browse Mexican imports and regulars gather for traditional meals. With La Jali, the Vargas family brings a streamlined version of the original while preserving the warmth that defines it.

The new La Jali space on Telegraph Road is bright and efficient, balancing modern counter service with cultural touches. Near the entrance, a compact market section features Mexican candies, salsas, and other nostalgic staples, serving as a clear nod to the extensive market of the original location.

José Vargas Jr. moves precisely in the kitchen, eyes fixed on the growing line of orders. Meanwhile, his sister Leslie Vargas stays close to the front, preparing drinks and answering customer questions from behind the bar. Calm and focused, the pair set the tone for the entire operation.

"This new format keeps things fast and casual, but the flavor and care are exactly the same as our original location." José shared in a press release.

That spirit resonates with diners. Kathy Poloni, a Taylor resident, had been watching the location closely in anticipation of opening day. "Everything tasted homemade," she said. "The food was excellent, and the chips were fantastic."

Darion and Lorie Spencer along with Katherine Howard made the visit part of their Cinco de Mayo tradition. "It felt like a celebration," said Lorie. "And the sopes were definitely worth the wait."

By sunset, the crowd hasn't thinned. Dishes move swiftly from kitchen to table, a blur of motion reflecting the busy opening, but the atmosphere remains warm. A family lingers over empty plates, sharing a final laugh under the colorful banners. Located at 9411 Telegraph Road, La Jali has done more than open its doors: it has extended a welcome.

******

Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval is a commercial photographer and independent photojournalist based in Detroit. His work documents the lives of immigrant communities in Southeast Michigan, focusing on how culture, community ties, and economic opportunity shape everyday life. He is dedicated to bridging information gaps and fostering meaningful conversations within the region.

EL CENTRAL Hispanic News is partially funded by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Stephen Poloni, 66, and Kathy Poloni, 63, of Taylor, MI., pose outside La Jali on Telegraph Road in Taylor on Monday, May 5, 2025. The couple had eagerly awaited the opening of the new restaurant. "Everything tasted homemade," said Kathy. "The food was excellent, and the chips were fantastic."

Server Angelina Celestee delivers tacos and handmade sopes to diners at La Jali in Taylor, MI., on Monday, May 5, 2025

De la oficina del Tesorero del Condado de Wayne,
Eric R. Sabree

PUEDE AYUDARLO CON EL PROCESO DE ASISTENCIA CON SUCESIONES

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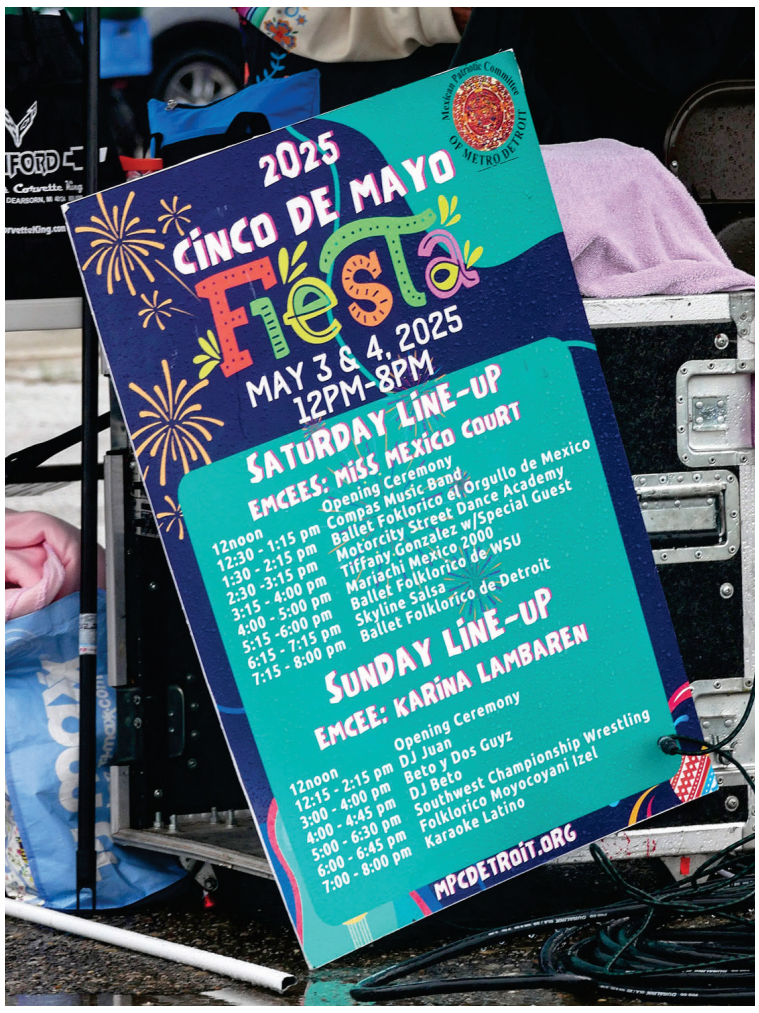
CINCO DE MAYO 202

El desfile del Cinco de Mayo

con't. de pg. 1

del punto de partida del desfile en el Parque Patton, donde se reunieron 22 camiones de comida y vendedores comerciales, con 10 mesas de recursos para promocionar alimentos y productos étnicos y compartir información importante con los asistentes.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CINCO DE MAYO
Fiesta
MAY 3 & 4, 2025
12PM-8PM
SATURDAY LINE-UP
EMCEES: MISS MEXICO COURT
12noon Opening Ceremony
12:30 - 1:15 pm Compas Music Band
1:30 - 2:15 pm Ballet Folklorico el Orgullo de Mexico
2:30 -3:15 pm Motorcity Street Dance Academy
3:15 - 4:00 pm Tiffany Gonzalez w/Special Guest
4:00 - 5:00 pm Mariachi Mexico 2000
5:15 -6:00 pm Ballet Folklorico de WSU
6:15 - 7:15 pm Skyline Salsa
7:15 - 8:00 pm Ballet Folklorico de Detroit
SUNDAY LINE-UP
EMCEE: KARINA LAMBAREN
12noon Opening Ceremony
12:15 - 2:15 pm DJ Juan
3:00 - 4:00 pm Beto y Dos Guyz
4:00 - 4:45 pm DJ Beto
5:00 - 6:30 pm Southwest Championship Wrestling
6:00 - 6:45 pm Folklorico Moyocoyani Izel
7:00 - 8:00 pm Karaoke Latino
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5 DESFILE Y FIESTA

Photos by Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval, Adam Dewey, and Luciana Vega

Metro Detroit Golden Gloves !!!

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS
Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Photos by Bob Ryder (fightnews.com)

This past Sunday, Berts Warehouse, in Eastern Market, held the finals for the Metro Detroit Golden Gloves. The Metro Detroit Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions 2025 took place over two weekends at Bert's Warehouse in Detroit, MI, on April 26-27 and May 3-4. The winners from this weekends tournament will represent Metro Detroit in the Golden Gloves Tournament in Tulsa, Oklahoma, May 12th - 17th.

Photos below are highlights from the Metro Detroit Golden Gloves Tournament

This years team championship went to Henry Hank - Tony Harrison Super Bad Boxing Gym

All the representatives representing Metro Detroit going to the Golden Gloves Tournament in Tulsa, OK

Brent Bowlin (of Super Bad Gym) was voted the MVP Boxer of the tournament, and is presented with trophy and belt by former WBC World Champion Tony Harrison

(L) Brent Bowlin (Super Bad Gym) celebrates his upsest victory over Jirair Thompson (Kronk Gym, and defending 2024 National Golden Gloves Champion) by a 3-2 split decision

(R) Brent Bowlin vs. Jirair Thompson match

DCFC Lets Indy Off The Hook

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

"Disappointed." "Disappointing." That was the theme after DCFC drew 2-2 against Indy XI last weekend. Coach Danny Dichio repeated those words several times during his post-match comments. He had good reason to feel that way. Making only two changes to his regular starting eleven to keep the team rolling, Dichio probably felt good about his team's strong start at the Michael A. Carroll Stadium.

Le Rouge established a commanding position during the first twenty-five minutes. Connor Rutz flicked a shot over goalkeeper after being put through on goal by Haruki Yamazaki before the game was two minutes old. That lifted the team from the start. When Darrin Smith doubled the lead after fifteen minutes with his league-leading seventh goal, visions of a blowout must have been dancing through everyone's dreams.

Jay Chapman pulled the strings in midfield, dictating the flow with a range of passing that continued to find gaps in the Indy XI defense. It seemed like only a matter of time before a third goal came that would put the score out of reach early. Then, confidence turned to arrogance and eventually foolishness.

Returning to the starting goalkeeper spot, Carlos Herrera dawdled on a back pass and then played an ill-advised pass straight up the middle to Ryan Williams, who had a defender in close pursuit. FAcing his own goal, Williams tried to find a teammate, but only succeeded in finding former teammate Elvis Amoh alone in front of the DCFC goal. Amoh struggled mightily to finish chances for DCFC, but he had little trouble punishing a lot of poor decisions to cut into the lead.

That goal changed the flow of the game entirely. DCFC never regained the upper hand. Even when Indy defender Hayden White received his second yellow card, reducing the hosts to ten men, Le Rouge couldn't regain the rhythm from the opening quarter of the match. Indy duly equalized a few minutes after the red card. Once again Elvis Amoh proved his former team's undoing. Somehow, both Stephen Carroll and Devon Amoo-Mensah went AWOL at the back and let Amoh in alone on Herrera. Amoh finished like the confident striker DCFC thought they would have last year.

The man advantage amounted to nothing and DCFC lost ground in the table to Louisville City and the Charleston Battery, who both won. Detroit City slipped to fourth place in the Eastern Conference. The top of the Eastern Conference is going to be a battle all season and no team can afford to drop points the way DCFC did last weekend. Turning a superb start into a dud will not have suited the team or coach Dichio ahead of a midweek US Open Cup match against the MLS' Chicago Fire. Fortunately, the Fire haven't been good lately either, six games without a win. They had to settle for a 0-0 draw with Orlando SC after goalkeeper Chris Brady was sent off for a foul outside his penalty area.

When DCFC returns to USL play on Saturday night, they will be in Hartford to face the team with the worst record in the league. After blowing a strong start in Indy, Le Rouge will want to see that out for three points no matter what happens in the Cup on Wednesday night. Win or lose in Chicago, expect DCFC supporters to make themselves heard. At least two buses will be leaving from the DCFC Clubhouse and they are expected to be joined by a hundreds of others at Seat Geek Stadium in Bridgeview. It may be the biggest away contingent DCFC has ever had at a game.

DCFC Draws Against Indy Eleven and Upcoming Game

(Photos and Story by Detroit City FC)

Detroit City Football Club played to a scrappy 2-2 draw on the road to Indy Eleven this past weekend, extending the club's undefeated streak to six matches in all competitions. Le Rouge started the scoring early as Connor Rutz applied a skillful finish past the Indy Eleven keeper in the 2nd minute, before striker Darren Smith scored his league-leading seventh goal of the season in the 16th minute.

Two goals from former Detroit City FC striker Elvis Amoh equalized the match for Indy Eleven.

Detroit City FC will travel take on Hartford Athletic, this Saturday, May 10th, at 7:00 pm, before returning to Keyworth Stadium, to host Charleston

Battery, on Saturday, May 24th, at 4:00 pm

For more information about Detroit City FC, visit detcityfc.com.com and follow @DetroitCityFC on Twitter and Facebook and @ detroitcityfootballclub on Instagram.

Detroit City Football Club has acquired the site of the former Southwest Detroit Hospital at the corner of Michigan Avenue and 20th Street for the purpose of building a new stadium that will serve as a permanent home for soccer in Detroit, with a goal of opening a new soccer-specific stadium by the club's 2027 season

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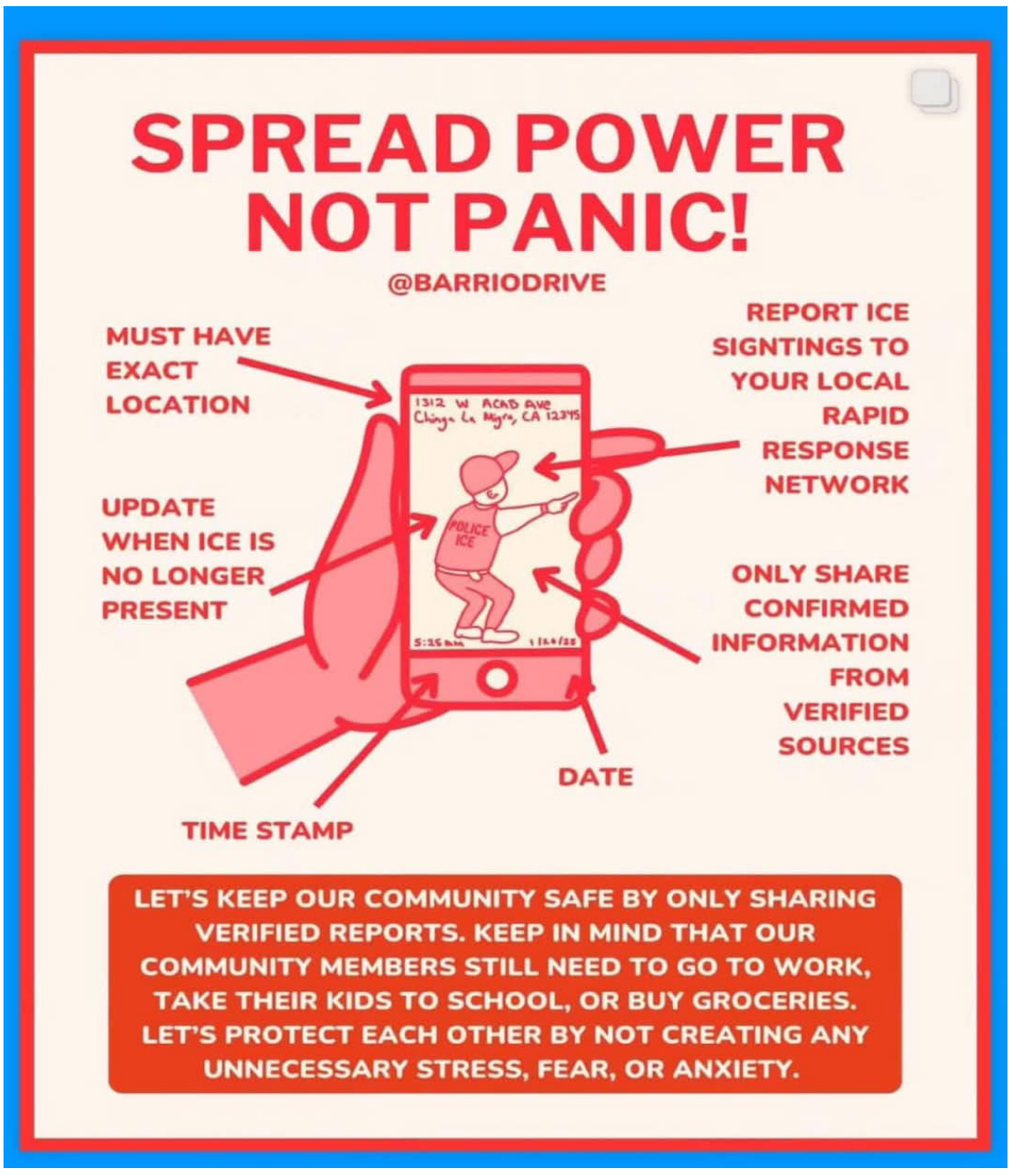
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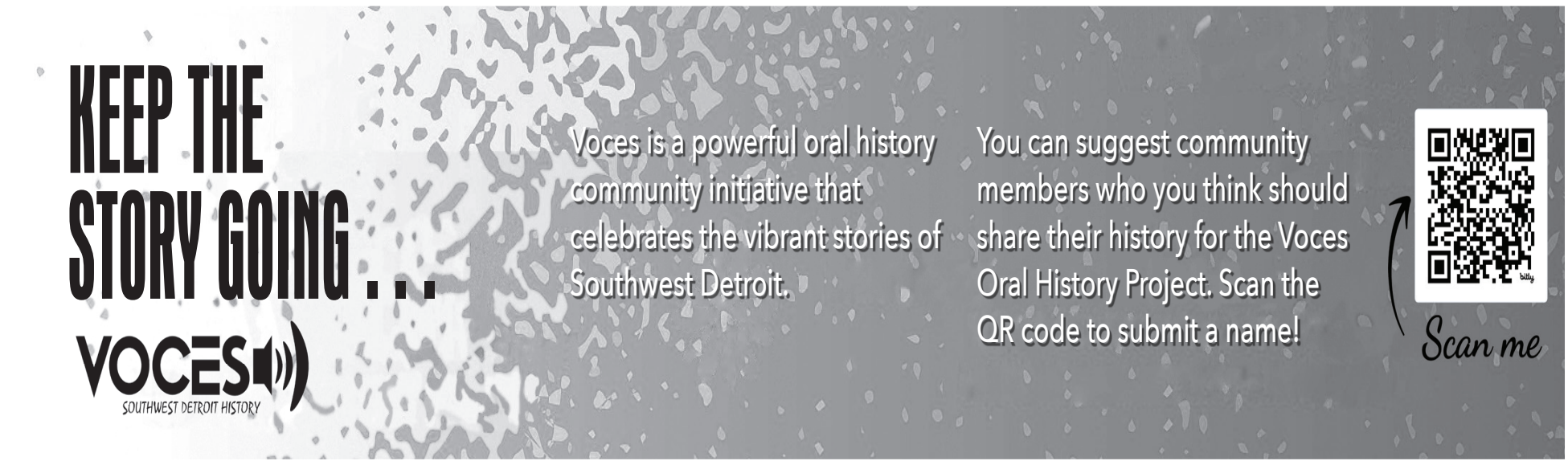
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EDITORIAL OPINION

Guest Opinion:

Keep demonstrating against Trump — but also for a better future

By Robert Reich

Demonstrations against Trump are getting larger and louder. Fabulous. This is absolutely essential.

But at some point we'll need to demonstrate not just against Trump but also for the America we want.

Trump's regressive populism — cruel, tyrannical, bigoted, authoritarian — must be met by a bold progressive populism that strengthens democracy and shares the wealth.

We can't simply return to the path we were on before Trump. Even then, big money was taking over our democracy and siphoning off most of the economy's gains.

Two of America's most respected political scientists — Professors Martin Gilens of Princeton and Benjamin Page of Northwestern University — analyzed 1,799 policy issues decided between 1981 and 2002. They found that "the preferences of the average American appear to have only a minuscule, near-zero, statistically non-significant impact upon public policy."

Instead, lawmakers responded to the demands of wealthy individuals (typically corporate executives and Wall Street moguls) and big corporations — those with the most lobbying prowess and deepest pockets to bankroll campaigns. And "when a majority of citizens disagrees with economic elites or with organized interests, they generally lose."

Notably, Gilens and Page's research data was gathered before the Supreme Court opened the floodgates to big money in Citizens United. After that, the voices of typical Americans were entirely drowned.

In the election cycle of 2016, which first delivered the White House to Trump, the richest one hundredth of one percent of Americans accounted for a record-breaking 40 percent of all campaign donations. (By contrast, in 1980, the top 0.01 percent accounted for only 15 percent of all contributions.)

The direction we were heading was unsustainable. Even before Trump's first regime, trust in every major institution of society was plummeting — including Congress, the courts, corporations, Wall Street, universities, the legal establishment, and the media.

The entire system seemed rigged for the benefit of the establishment — and in many ways, it was.

The typical family's inflation-adjusted income had barely risen for decades. Most of the economy's gains had gone to the top.

Wall Street got bailed out when its gambling addiction caused it enormous losses, but homeowners who were underwater did not. Nor did people who lost their jobs and savings. Not a single top Wall Street executive went to jail.

A populist — antiestablishment — revolution was inevitable. But it didn't have to be a tyrannical

one. It didn't have to be regressive populism.

Instead of putting the blame where it belonged — on big corporations, Wall Street, and the billionaire class — Trump has blamed immigrants, the "deep state," socialists, "coastal elites," transgender people, "DEI," and "woke."

How has Trump gotten away with this while giving the super-rich large tax benefits and regulatory relief and surrounding himself (especially in his second term) with a record number of billionaires, including the richest person in the world?

Largely because Democrats — with the notable exceptions of Bernie Sanders (who isn't even a Democrat), AOC, and a handful of others — could not, and still cannot, bring themselves to enunciate a progressive version of populism that puts the blame squarely where it belongs.

Too many have been eating from the same campaign buffet as the Republicans and dare not criticize the hands that feed them.

This has left Trump's regressive populism the only version of antiestablishment politics available to Americans. It's a tragedy. Antiestablishment fury remains at the heart of our politics, and for good reason.

What would progressive populism entail?

Strengthening democracy by busting up big corporations. Stopping Wall Street's gambling (e.g., replicating the Glass-Steagall Act). Getting big money out of politics, even if this requires amending the Constitution. Requiring big corporations to share their profits with their average workers. Strengthening unions. And raising taxes on the super-wealthy to finance a universal basic income, Medicare for all, and paid family leave.

Hopefully, demonstrations against Trump's regressive, tyrannical populism will continue to grow.

But we must also be demonstrating for a better future beyond Trump — one that strengthens democracy and works on behalf of all Americans rather than a privileged few.

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

Do you have a contrary opinion? Write us at info@elcentralmedia.com

Opinión de un Invitado:

Sigan manifestándose contra Trump, pero también por un futuro mejor

Por Robert Reich

Las manifestaciones contra Trump son cada vez más numerosas y ruidosas. ¡Fabuloso! Es absolutamente esencial.

Pero en algún momento tendremos que manifestarnos no solo contra Trump, sino también por los Estados Unidos que queremos.

El populismo regresivo de Trump —cruel, tiránico, intolerante y autoritario— debe ser enfrentado por un populismo progresista y audaz que fortalezca la democracia y comparta la riqueza.

No podemos simplemente volver al camino que tomábamos antes de Trump. Incluso entonces, el gran capital se estaba apoderando de nuestra democracia y desviando la mayor parte de las ganancias de la economía.

Dos de los politólogos más respetados de Estados Unidos —los profesores Martin Gilens de Princeton y Benjamin Page de la Universidad Northwestern— analizaron 1799 asuntos políticos decididos entre 1981 y 2002. Descubrieron que «las preferencias del estadounidense promedio parecen tener un impacto minúsculo, casi nulo y estadísticamente no significativo en las políticas públicas».

En cambio, los legisladores respondieron a las demandas de individuos adinerados (generalmente ejecutivos corporativos y magnates de Wall Street) y grandes corporaciones, aquellas con mayor capacidad de cabildeo y los bolsillos más abultados para financiar campañas. Y "cuando la mayoría de los ciudadanos discrepa con las élites económicas o con intereses organizados, generalmente pierden".

Cabe destacar que los datos de la investigación de Gilens y Page se recopilaron antes de que la Corte Suprema abriera las puertas a los grandes capitales en Citizens United. Después de eso, las voces del estadounidense promedio quedaron completamente acalladas.

En el ciclo electoral de 2016, que primero llevó la Casa Blanca a Trump, el 100% más rico de los estadounidenses representó un récord del 40% de todas las donaciones de campaña. (En contraste, en 1980, el 0,01% más rico representó solo el 15% de todas las contribuciones).

La dirección en la que nos dirigíamos era insostenible. Incluso antes del primer régimen de Trump, la confianza en todas las instituciones importantes de la sociedad se desplomaba, incluyendo el Congreso, los tribunales, las corporaciones, Wall Street, las universidades, el sistema legal y los medios de comunicación.

Todo el sistema parecía manipulado para beneficio del establishment, y en muchos sentidos, así era.

Los ingresos ajustados a la inflación de una familia típica apenas habían aumentado en décadas. La mayor parte de las ganancias de la economía habían ido a parar a los más ricos.

Wall Street fue rescatado cuando su adicción al juego le causó enormes pérdidas, pero los propietarios que estaban bajo el agua no. Tampoco quienes perdieron sus empleos y ahorros. Ningún alto ejecutivo de Wall Street fue a la cárcel.

Una revolución populista — antiestablishment— era inevitable. Pero no tenía por qué ser tiránica. No tenía por qué ser un populismo regresivo.

En lugar de culpar a quien corresponde —a las grandes corporaciones, Wall Street y la clase multimillonaria—, Trump ha culpado a los inmigrantes, al "Estado profundo", a los socialistas, a las "élites costeras", a las personas transgénero, a la "DEI" y a los "woke".

¿Cómo ha logrado Trump salirse con la suya mientras otorga a los superricos grandes beneficios fiscales y alivio regulatorio, rodeándose (especialmente en su segundo mandato) de una cantidad récord de multimillonarios, incluyendo a la persona más rica del mundo?

En gran medida, porque los demócratas —con las notables excepciones de Bernie Sanders (que ni siquiera es demócrata), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez y algunos otros— no pudieron, y aún no pueden, atreverse a enunciar una versión progresista del populismo que eche la culpa directamente a quien corresponde.

Demasiados han estado comiendo del mismo bufé de campaña que los republicanos y no se atreven a criticar a quienes los alimentan.

Esto ha dejado al populismo regresivo de Trump como la única versión de política antisistema disponible para los estadounidenses. Es una tragedia. La furia antisistema sigue siendo la base de nuestra política, y con razón.

¿Qué implicaría el populismo progresista?

Fortalecer la democracia desmantelando las grandes corporaciones. Detener la especulación de Wall Street (por ejemplo, replicando la Ley Glass-Steagall). Retirar el gran capital de la política, incluso si esto requiere reformar la Constitución. Exigir a las grandes corporaciones que compartan sus ganancias con los trabajadores promedio. Fortalecer los sindicatos. Y subir los impuestos a los superricos para financiar una renta básica universal, Medicare para todos y licencias familiares remuneradas.

Esperemos que las manifestaciones contra el populismo regresivo y tiránico de Trump sigan creciendo.

Pero también debemos manifestarnos por un futuro mejor después de Trump: uno que fortalezca la democracia y trabaje en nombre de todos los estadounidenses, no de unos pocos privilegiados.

Las opiniones expresadas en esta columna no son necesariamente las del editor o redactor

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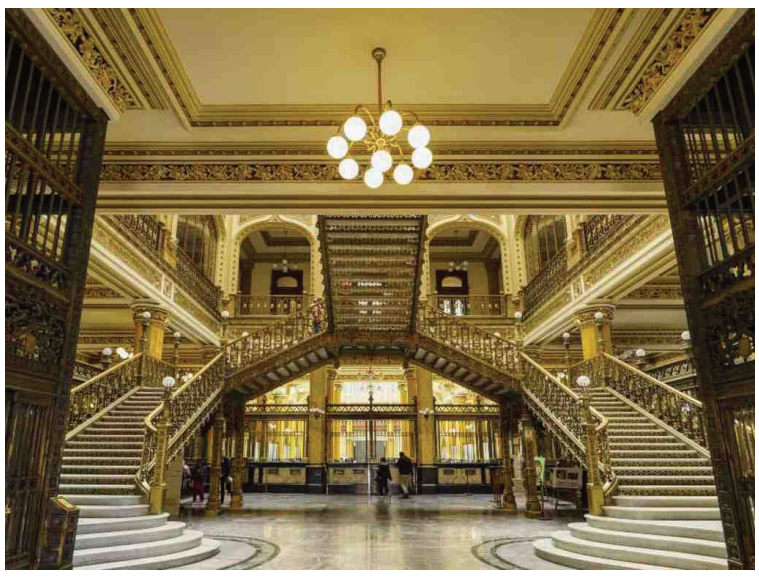
Mexican Porfirian architecture

Porfirismo and Mexican monumental architecture

During the 19th and part of the 20th centuries, Mexico lacked an identity that represented Mexican identity as a national unit, as the territory was home to more than 68 towns and ethnic-cultural communities. Thus, during the Porfiriato (1876-1911), Porfirio Díaz focused on shaping the much-needed Mexican nationalism, using art to consolidate this identity, recovering European elements, especially the French style, and later giving it a Mexican touch through precise details.

However, the Porfiriato not only addressed identity but also emphasized the idea of Mexican power through the image of the nation, offered to the world through its architecture. Restoration and public works activities were essential; they served as substantive evidence of the maturity the Porfirian regime sought to achieve. The concept of a city was showcased as one of the principles that the Mexican people should pursue. This led to the construction of great monuments and projects in different cities across the country. In Mexico City, the Paseo de la Reforma, the Cuauhtémoc Monument, the Post Office, the Church of the Holy Family in the Roma neighborhood, the Palace of Fine Arts, the Monument to the Angel of Independence, the Postal Palace, the Palace of Communications and Public Works, the



project for the Legislative Palace, which became the current Monument to the Revolution. In Guanajuato, the Juárez Theater and the Hidalgo Market. In Guadalajara, the Plaza de Armas and the Basilica of the Most Holy Sacrament, also known as the Expiatory Temple. These buildings are currently listed as landmarks of Mexican art.

Similarly, it must be recognized that this attempt at "Modernity" took the great European cities as a reference, and that Don Porfirio's work always seemed to lean toward a visual perspective of the city as an aspect of civility. Although Porfirio Díaz is one of the most controversial figures in Mexican history, his more than thirty years as president, with his ambitious ideals for the invention of nationalism, came at a great cost to Mexican society.

During the Porfiriato, Mexico emerged in Europe as a symbol and avant-garde. He introduced cinema a couple of years after its invention and sought to give the country an image with which Mexicans could identify; he focused on the invention of nationalism.

For Díaz, the country was ready to take this great leap and become a great power compared to other Latin American countries; he was there to lay the foundations for Mexico as a modern state, with structures that would rival Parisian and European works in general.

Ana Cristina Vargas Pérez

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ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Arquitectura porfirista mexicana

El Porfirismo y la Arquitectura monumental mexicana

Durante el siglo XIX y parte del XX México no contaba con una identidad con la que se representara la mexicanidad como unidad nacional, pues el territorio albergaba más de 68 pueblos, comunidades étnico-culturales. Así, durante el porfiriato (1876-1911), Porfirio Díaz se enfocó en la conformación de ese nacionalismo mexicano que tanto se requería, sirviéndose del arte para consolidar esta identidad, recuperando lo europeo, especialmente el estilo francés, para posteriormente darle ese toque mexicano a través de precisos detalles.

Mas el porfiriato no sólo abordaba la identidad, sino que enfatizaba la idea del poder mexicano mediante el posicionamiento que la imagen de la nación a través de su arquitectura podía ofrecer al mundo. Las actividades de restauración y obras públicas fueron imprescindibles, fungieron como evidencia sustantiva de la madurez a la que el régimen porfirista pretendía llegar, se exhibía la concepción de una urbe, como uno de los principios que debía perseguir el pueblo mexicano.

Así fue como se llevó a la construcción de grandes monumentos y proyectos en diferentes ciudades del país. En la Ciudad de México el Paseo de la Reforma, el Monumento a Cuauhtémoc, el Palacio de Correos, la Iglesia de la Sagrada Familia en la colonia Roma, el Palacio de Bellas Artes, el Monumento al Ángel de la Independencia, el Palacio de Postal, el Palacio de Comunicaciones y Obras Públicas, el proyecto de Palacio Legislativo y que pasó a ser el actual Monumento a la Revolución. En Guanajuato el Teatro Juárez y el Mercado Hidalgo. En Guadalajara, la Plaza de Armas y la iglesia de La Basílica del Santísimo Sacramento, también conocido como Templo Expiatorio. Estos edificios en la actualidad se enlistan como puntos de mayor relevancia en cuanto al arte mexicano.

Del mismo modo, cabe reconocer que este intento de "Modernidad" tomaba como referente a las grandes urbes europeas y que la tarea de Don Porfirio parecía inclinarse siempre hacia una

perspectiva visual de la ciudad como aspecto de la civilidad.

Si bien, Porfirio Díaz es una de las figuras más controvertidas en la Historia de México, por sus más de treinta años en la presidencia con sus ideales ambiciosos para la invención del nacionalismo, pero que tuvo grandes costos para la sociedad mexicana.

Durante el Porfiriato, México despuntaba en Europa como símbolo y vanguardia, trajo el cine un par de años después de su invención, y procuró dar al país una imagen con la que se identificara al mexicano; se enfocó en la invención de un nacionalismo.

Para Díaz, el país estaba listo para dar este gran salto y ser una gran potencia en comparación a los otros países latinoamericanos; él estaba para sentar las bases de México como un estado moderno, con estructuras que nada envidiaran a las obras parisinas y europeas en general.

Ana Cristina Vargas Pérez

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